

Tom Feeney on Beach Driving

For several months I have heard from various people interested in beach driving related issues in Volusia County. In January, I walked the length of the coastline in my district and along the way met with city and county commissioners, turtle rescue workers, beach driving advocates, property management workers, property rights advocates, beach patrol officers, parents, and many others.

3 consistent points on my position

First, ultimately, the policy and regulations concerning beach driving are a local issue for Volusia residents and local officials. I will neither advocate for or against any particular proposal at this time.

Second, property rights advocates, who believe they have legitimate interests violated by those policies, have redress in the appropriate courts, where private boundary lines and sovereign land issues must ultimately be decided.

Finally, the only issue I am aware of that is Federal in nature is the permit and easement issued by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which was originally brought to my attention by parties concerned with the re-issuance of the permit. Good science not politics should ultimately drive any decision by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. All constituents, regardless of their position on the issue, should have the opportunity to address their concerns to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. My office will be happy to forward any comments, concerns, studies, or reports related to permit issues to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.